

Message Text

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R 041606Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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FOLLOWING MESSAGE FM SECSTATE 04 DEC 73 SENT ACTION NAIROBI
INFO GENEVA PARIS AND USUN REPEATED TO YOU

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ILO, AORG

SUBJECT: ILO - CANDIDACY OF FRANCIS BLANCHARD FOR ILO
DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP

1. ILO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FRANCIS BLANCHARD (FRANCE)
HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS CANDIDATE FOR POSITION OF ILO
DIRECTOR GENERAL, VACATED THROUGH THE DEATH OF WILFRED JENKS
ON OCTOBER 9, 1973.

2. BLANCHARD, AS SENIOR MEMBER OF ILO DIRECTORATE
AVAILABLE, HAS AUTOMATICALLY ACCEDED TO INTERIM
RESPONSIBILITY FOR RUNNING ILO PENDING THE APPOINTMENT
OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL BY THE ILO GOVERNING BODY AT ITS
192ND SESSION, FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1974.

3. IN HIS INTERIM CAPACITY, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES BLANCHARD
PROBABLY HAS BEEN APPOINTED SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE
FOURTH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ILO, NOW TAKING
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PLACE IN NAIROBI. AS SECRETARY GENERAL, HE WILL HAVE

CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE EFFICIENT CONDUCT OF THIS CONFERENCE.

4. UNITED STATES IS A MEMBER OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY, AND OUR REPRESENTATIVE WILL HAVE TO VOTE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT DIRECTOR GENERAL. DEPARTMENT, THEREFORE, IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE ASAP AFTER CLOSE OF CONFERENCE, ANY INFORMATION BEARING ON BLANCHARD'S CANDIDACY THAT MAY BE DEVELOPED DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE.

5. DEPARTMENT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE'S IMPRESSIONS OF HOW BLANCHARD PERFORMED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE. WE ALSO WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT COMMENTS, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, OTHERS MAY HAVE MADE ON HOW BLANCHARD INFLUENCED THE CONFERENCE.

6. REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE INITIATIVE TO STIMULATE SUCH INFORMATION, NOR SHOULD HE DIRECTLY SOLICIT VIEWS, WE DO NOT WISH TO DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT INDICATE THAT THE US FAVORS OR OPPOSES EITHER OF THE FORMALLY ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES (ILO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL ALBERT TEVOEDJRE OF DAHOMEY BEING THE SECOND AT THIS TIME) NOR OF ANY POTENTIAL CANDIDATE. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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